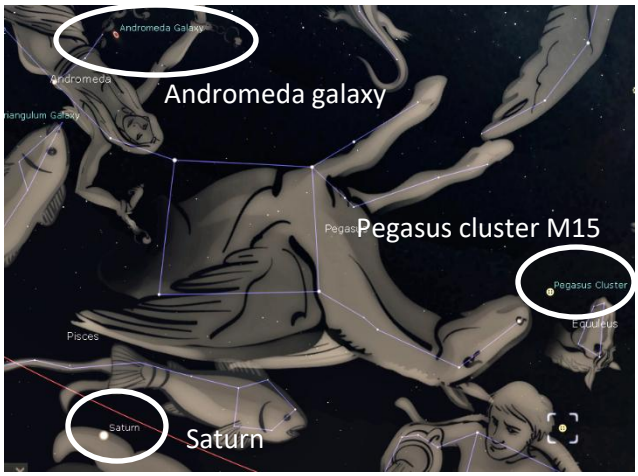
Since 1979

What's Up in November 2026

A monthly update from Cedar Amateur Astronomers

For more information about the Eastern Iowa Observatory & Learning Center (EIOLC)
Go to the Web: www.Cedar-Astronomers.org, or E-Mail: inquiries@cedar-astronomers.org



In the Sky: The constellation Pegasus, the winged horse of Greek Mythology, is high in the southern sky during November. Besides Pegasus, the constellation Andromeda is prominent in the sky. The farthest away object visible to the unaided eye, Messier 31 the Andromeda Galaxy, can be found at the dim end of Andromeda's belt and the "Pegasus Cluster" Messier 15 is just in front of Pegasus' nose. Both visible with binoculars.

The picture is a capture from Stellarium looking near straight overhead to the south mid-month.

The night of November 17 and early morning hours of November 18 will bring the return of the annual Leonid meteor shower. The Leonids, a moderate meteor shower with about a dozen meteors per hour, tend to be very fast with a high proportion of bright meteors that leave a trail. The moon will set at midnight while the shower radiant rises at about 11pm (on the evening of the 17th) so it will have no effect on observing the meteors for meteor watchers in the early morning hours of the 18th.

Mars and Jupiter cuddle up on the 16th plus or minus a day just before dawn high in the sky to the south-east. About one degree apart the pair will be brilliant with Jupiter at magnitude -2 and Mars brighter than magnitude 1, it should be a photo-op for early risers around 5am. And don't neglect to look low in the sky to the east at that time of the morning for brilliant Venus shining at almost magnitude -5, Venus will be looking pretty in a telescope as a thin waxing crescent by mid-month and growing to about a 1/3 lit. Speaking of planets and telescopes, Uranus will be the largest and brightest of the year at Thanksgiving time this year. It is at opposition on the 25th of November, where it is directly opposite the sun in our sky, so passing closest to earth in its orbit. Saturn is visible pretty much all night long now.

At the Observatory:

We will hold our last public open house event of the year on November 7th at 7:30 pm with University of Iowa Professor William (Bill) Kurth who will give a talk on their efforts to keep the two most distant man-made objects in space (the Voyager satellites) operating after 49 years of travel to interstellar space. Following the program our high-performance telescopes will be open for public viewing. Our tradition of wintertime educational and entertaining virtual events will continue December 5th.